Climate Caucus

Handbook

A Toolkit For Local Elected Climate Action



Key Resource

Climate Initiatives For Rural & Small Communities

Contents

1. Introduction
    a. A Tour of the Toolbox
    b. Useful Tools
    c. Climate Plans from rural and small communities
2. Rural and Smaller Communities Initiatives
    a. Transportation
    b. Zero-Waste / Circular Economy
    c. Sustainable Procurement
    d. Buildings
    e. Nature-Based Solutions
    f. Managing Natural Assets
    g. Community Renewables - Solar
    h. Food Security

Introduction

The Rural and Smaller Communities Handbook addresses the unique challenges local electeds face in smaller/ rural municipalities. Initiatives, policies and programs that have been demonstrated in urban municipalities/cities may not always be applicable for smaller, rural municipalities. Our topics range from funding, working as a regional team and leveraging technology to improve services in rural areas.

The Handbook is a living document, which means we will be adding your successful motions as they happen, and it provides an up-to-date, real-time guide to the change being driven by Climate Caucus members from coast to coast to coast.

Are we missing any key resources? Submit it here or email us!

A Tour of the Toolbox:

Check out this video for a run through of the tools Climate Caucus has available to rural and small community leaders across Canada:
Rural & Small Communities - A Tour of the Toolbox

Useful Tools:

- Climate Caucus Rural Call Playlist
- ICLEI and FCM Small and Rural Communities Actions Handbook
- Resilient Rurals Alberta - Rural Call with Resilient Rurals

Climate Plans from rural and small communities:

- Bathurst NB Adaptation Plan
- Sackville NB 50 Great Ideas for Inspiring Community Resilience to Climate Change
- Nelson, BC
- Oxford County 100% renewable plan
- Billings MB

Climate Caucus Resources:

- Climate Caucus Municipal Grants List - detailed list of relevant municipal grants
- Policies and Resources Library - list of motions, bylaws, & council reports

Rural and Smaller Communities Initiatives / Categories

We have broken our initiatives into categories to make them easier to conceptualize. Our goal is to provide best practice climate solutions for each area, including relevant case studies and program details, bylaws, jurisdictional contexts, sample resolutions, and briefing notes. Click on any of the links below to access our research and resources!

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	LINK TO FURTHER INFORMATION
TRANSPORTATION	Includes sections on: • Rural Transit • Rural Active Transportation • EV for small communities • Support Electric Micro-Mobility • On-demand Transit • Municipal Fleets and Equipment	MORE HERE
ZERO-WASTE / CIRCULAR ECONOMY	Rural and smaller community-specific resources pulled out from the Zero Waste and Circular Economy Handbook. Initiatives include zero waste commitments, zero waste plans, mandatory source separation bylaw, EPR programs, re-use centres, repair cafes and more.	MORE HERE
SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT	This handbook compiles rural and small community examples from our sustainable procurement handbook section. Sustainable procurement ensures that purchasing decisions consider broader environmental impacts	MORE HERE

	and strengthen the social and economic resilience of local communities, rather than focusing solely on the traditional considerations of price, quality and ability to meet technical requirements.	
BUILDINGS	A compilation of rural and smaller community-specific resources pulled out from the Buildings Climate Caucus Handbook. Greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) from buildings account for a significant amount of Canada's overall emissions, adding up to 111 million tonnes or about 17% of Canada's total emissions. Building performance improvements is critical to achieving Canada's GHG reduction targets.	MORE HERE
NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS	The following are rural and smaller community-specific resources pulled out from the Nature Based Solutions Climate Caucus Handbook. As many small communities are based in rural areas, nature based solutions are more readily available than in larger cities and can be some of your lower cost options.	MORE HERE
MANAGING NATURAL ASSETS	In this handbook you can find quick starting points for small communities looking to incorporate natural assets into their asset management plans.	MORE HERE
COMMUNITY RENEWABLES - SOLAR	A list of initiatives was pulled out from the Low Carbon Energy Handbook with small and rural communities examples and initiatives.	MORE HERE

FOOD SECURITY	Food security is critical to both climate adaptation and mitigation. A robust local food system contributes to a resilient and diversified local economy. In this handbook are rural and smaller community-specific resources pulled out from the Food Security Handbook.	MORE HERE